

**Amendments To The Specification:**

**Please delete the Abstract of the Disclosure in its entirety and substitute the following replacement Abstract therefor:**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A technique for carrying out distributed printing from a general-purpose application program. An application program generates print data and issues a print command. A virtual printer driver receives the print command and returns performance information with regard to performances of a virtual printer to the application program. The application program converts print data into data suitable for the virtual printer based on the performance information and transmits the converted print data to the virtual printer driver. The virtual printer driver stores the input print data in the form of an intermediate print file into an HDD. A distributed printing utility reads the intermediate print file, allocates intermediate print data in the intermediate print file to respective printers according to a distributed form set in a dialog box, and outputs the print data in a distributive manner to real printer drivers provided for the respective printers based on the allocation.

**Please replace the paragraph that begins at page 30, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:**

The ROM 31 is a built-in read only memory that stores therein diverse programs. The RAM 32 is a readable and writable memory that stores various data therein. The display video memory 33 stores video data representing images to be displayed on the CRT display 12. The mouse interface 34 takes charge of transmission of data to and from the mouse 20. The keyboard interface 35 takes charge of key inputs from the keyboard 18. The FDC 36 is a floppy disk controller for controlling the floppy disk drive (FDD) 24. The HDC 37 is a hard disk controller for controlling a hard disk drive (HDD) 41. The CRTC 38 is a CRT controller for controlling display of images on the CRT display 12 based on the display video data stored in the display video memory 33. The printer interface 39 controls data output to the locally connected printer 44 60. The network control circuit 40 includes a network card and is connected to the computer network 90.

**Please replace the paragraph that begins at page 34, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:**

In the virtual printer driver 110, the properties setting module 113 activates a user interface 116 to set and store various pieces of information required for printing. Some of ~~he~~ the various pieces of information required for printing are returned, together with the performance information, to the application program 100 via the performance information return module 112. The various pieces of information required for printing include, for example, information with regard to the basic settings of printing like the printing quality, the color correction, and the type of halftoning, information with regard to the settings of paper like the paper size and the printing orientation, information with regard to the printer group specifying available printers as destinations of distribution, and information with regard to the distributed form in the distributed printing process. Among these pieces of information, the information excluding those with regard to the printer group and the distributed form is sent to the application program 100.

**Please replace the paragraph that begins at page 39, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:**

When it is determined that the available printers as the destinations of distribution are of the identical type, on the other hand, the following series of processing is carried out. The printer setting module 125 first gives an instruction to change the settings via the real printer drivers 130, 140, and 150 to the printers 60, 70, and 80 specified as the destinations of allocation based on the allocation information. The procedure then transmits the allocated pages of the intermediate print data via the final print data output module 128 to the real printer driver 130 of the available printers 60, ~~7~~ 70, and 80 specified as the destinations of allocation based on the allocation information. In the case where all the available printers 60, 70, and 80 are of the identical type, the intermediate print data has undergone the required processing like color conversion or halftoning as mentioned above. The real printer driver 130 thus transmits the intermediate print data as the final print data to the respective printers 60, 70, and 80.